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FROM: BONN

T0: Secretary of State

NO: 1037, NOVEMBER 14, 8 PM

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1037 REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 184, PARIS 278,
MOSCOW 104, BERLIN 272.

REFERENCE DEPTTEL 987

AFTER MEETING THIS MORNING WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH COUNSELORS
WE MET THIS AFTERNOON WITH THEIR AMBASSADORS AT FRENCH REQUEST.

REGARDING POSSIBLE TRIPARTITE DECLARATION OR DEMARCHE MOSCOW,
BRITISH STRONGLY OPPOSED BOTH. THEY CONSIDER THAT STATEMENTS
ALREADY MADE HAVE AMPLY SHOWN FIRMNESS OUR POSITION, THAT THINGS
NOW CALMED DOWN SOMEWHAT, THAT GROTEWOHL SPEECH INDICATED
SLIGHT RETREAT, AND THAT IN ANY EVENT DEMARCHE MOSCOW MIGHT
PROVE TACTICAL ERROR BY EVOKING REPLY "FORMALIZING" STATEMENTS
IN KHRUSHCHEV SPEECH. FRENCH AMBASSADOR, ALTHOUGH INSTRUCTED
BY PARIS DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF DEMARCHE, AGREED WITH BRITISH
IT BETTER LEAVE THINGS WHERE THEY ARE PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
WE ALSO INCLINED AGREE.

OTHER POINTS FRENCH INSTRUCTED DISCUSS WERE (1) EXACT NATURE DIFFICULTIES SOVIETS MAY CREATE AND (2) POSSIBLE WESTERN RETALIATIONS. ON (1) IT AGREED THAT FORESEEABLE EVENTUALITIES ALREADY PRETTY WELL COVERED IN TRIPARTITE PAPER ON SURFACE ACCESS TO BERLIN (EMBDESP 1075 DECEMBER 18, 1957) AND IN TRIPARTITE INSTRUCTIONS TO BASC (BERLIN'S 315 TO DEPARTMENT - BRITISH AND FRENCH COMMENTS ON THESE INSTRUCTIONS IN SEPARATE TELEGRAM).

BRITISH EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ANY MOVES WERE APT TO BE AGAINST

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ALLIED ACCESS TO BERLIN RATHER THAN GERMAN. IF ALLIED SURFACE TRAVEL CUT OFF AND EVEN IF COMMERCIAL AIR TRAVEL ALSO STOPPED, THEY SUGGESTED, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THREE POWERS TO MOUNT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY "LITTLE AIRLIFT" TO SUPPLY BERLIN GARRISONS AND PROVIDE TRANSPORT FOR AT LEAST OFFICIAL TRAVEL. THEY THOUGHT COST AND EFFORT OF THIS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE GREAT AND THAT IT WOULD PUT SOVIETS AND GDR IN DISADVANTAGEOUS POSITION. WE SUGGESTED "LITTLE AIRLIFT" MIGHT HAVE TO BE EXPANDED TO COVER AT LEAST SOME CIVILIAN TRAVEL ALSO IF COMMERCIAL AIRLINES UNABLE FLY. IT WAS AGREED ASK GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER IDEA AND WHAT IF ANY ADVANCE PLANNING NECESSARY.

ON POSSIBLE RETALIATIONS, IT AGREED ESSENTIAL PRESS GERMANS JOIN IN ECONOMIC COUNTERMEASURES, ESPECIALLY RE STEEL DELIVERIES. BRITISH ALSO REVERTED TO IDEA PUT FOWARD THEIR PAPER ON COUNTERMEASURES (EMBDESP 1865 APRIL 14), ABOUT REFUSING VISAS TO SOVIETS, AND SUGGESTED THAT IF THREE POWERS AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC, AS WELL PERHAPS AS ALL NATO COUNTRIES, AGREED SUCH REFUSAL, IT WOULD HAVE STRONG IMPACT. IN REPLY QUESTION WHETHER UK REALLY LIKELY BE WILLING DO THIS, BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID HE BELIEVED SO SINCE IDEA HAD EMANATED FROM FOREIGN OFFICE.

DESIRABILITY OF DISCUSSING PRACTICALLY ALL OF FOREGOING WITH GERMANS ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS WAS AGREED AND MEETING NOW SET WITH NORTHE TOMORROW (SATURDAY) MORNING.

TRIMBLE

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